



# NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

## Communications Division

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2008

### **Operation Pull Over Blitz 54 Ends with More Than 20,000 Citations**

(Indianapolis, IN.) - The results are in from the statewide Operation Pull Over enforcement initiative that took place March 7-23. This was the first dual effort of the year, encompassing seat belt and impaired driving enforcement.

During this 16 day period, state and local law enforcement officers worked more than 11,500 overtime hours to detect impaired drivers and unrestrained motorists. Nearly 5,500 vehicles were stopped and 467 misdemeanor/felony arrests were made for impaired driving.

"Thanks to the dedication of our state and local partners in traffic safety, with each enforcement effort we are making Indiana's roadways safer to travel by decreasing the likelihood of preventable crashes and fatalities," said Neil Moore, executive director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI).

Seat belt citations totaled more than 13,316, and 439 citations were issued for lack of or improper child restraint use. Other violations observed by police officers included speeding and driving with a suspended license, bringing the total number of citations issued for this statewide traffic safety enforcement effort to 21,055.

Operation Pull Over focuses on combining high-visibility enforcement with heightened public awareness and is supported by a paid radio and television advertising campaign. Funding for this initiative is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to decrease the number of crashes and fatalities on Indiana's roadways.

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This Operation Pull Over initiative benefited Hoosiers in many ways. While its primary purpose was to deter impaired driving and enforce seat belt use, the mobilization also countered other potential traffic hazards, and rid local streets and neighborhoods of illegal substances and criminal activity. Following is a breakdown by county, of significant events that occurred during this enforcement effort:

County	Department	Significant Events and Arrests
Starke County	Sheriff Department	Reports making a drug arrest along with a DUI arrest and attributes these arrests to positive feedback received from the public about the need for designated drivers.
LaPorte County	Police Department	During a traffic stop a police officer detected the smell of burnt marijuana coming from the driver of the vehicle. A subsequent investigation led to a seizure of D felony marijuana and the driver was charged with dealing marijuana.
Marion	Police Department	An officer working seal belt patrol observed a male subject in a yard attempting suicide by hanging. The officer had to physically restrain the subject but was able to sever the rope from the tree and provide the subject with medical and psychological assistance.
New Haven	Police Department	Reports that three separate traffic stops resulted in arrests for possession of marijuana, possession of cocaine and an investigation into the theft of copper.
Lawrence County	Sheriff Department	Deputies reported that during this enforcement blitz they came across an underage drinking party and conducted several portable breath tests (PBT's). Hopefully this action had a positive impact on the children and their parents.

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Wayne County	Sheriff Department	Officers stopped a vehicle for a seat belt infraction and encountered seven illegal immigrants. An investigation conducted by ICE (Immigration and Customs) determined that the subjects were to be returned to their home country.
Perry County	Sheriff Department	A vehicle stop resulted in the discovery of a clandestine drug lab.
Bartholomew County	Sheriff Department	An officer conducted a traffic stop during the Blitz and found a rolling methamphetamine lab. His discovery resulted in a felony arrest for possession of methamphetamine and the possession of the precursors to manufacture methamphetamine.
Boone County	Sheriff Department	Assisted Zionsville PD in arresting 31 underage individuals at a party.
Hamilton County	Fishers Police Department	Officer stopped a vehicle for a seat belt violation. Driver fled and pursuit began. Suspect was subdued with a taser and taken into custody. Arrest resulted in 14 felonies due to narcotics in vehicle, driving under the influence. Passenger was also charged with minor consumption, there was an 18 month old child located in rear seat that was in a child restraint but not secured with a seat belt.

*The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst and the implementing body for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides grant funding, training, coordination and ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates through funding from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.*

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